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REPORT

SUBJECT **Comments and Evaluations on a Review of Soviet Technique**

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**Twenty Five Years of Soviet Technique**

Edited by I P Bardin, N G Bruyevich, A M Terpigorev, V I Veyts and A.S. Kudryavtsev. Izdatel'stvo Akademii Nauk SSSR (1945) 208 pp

1. A series of 16 talks given at commemorative sessions in 1942 of the Academy of Sciences and the Technical Sciences Division:
  - Mechanics (V G Galerkin, N Ye Kochin, V V Sokolovskiy, N G Chetaev)
  - Theory of Machines and Mechanisms (I I Artobolevskiy)
  - Construction of Machines (Ye A Chudakov)
  - Machine Tools (V I Dikushin)
  - Automatic Controls and Telemechanics (V I Kovalenkov and A V Khranov)
  - Details of the Development of Soviet Power Engineering (V I Veyts)
  - Electric Machines (K I Shenfer)
  - Electric Power Stations and Systems (B A Teleshev)
  - Heat Engineering: Boiler Construction and Scientific Investigations in the Field of Steam Technology (M.V. Kirpichev and M A Styrikovich)
  - Gas Technology (A B Chernyshev)
  - Technology of Soviet Ferrous Metallurgy (I P Bardin and V V Rikman)
  - Technology of Soviet Nonferrous Metallurgy (A A Baykov, D M Chizhikov and A A Bochar)
  - Refractory Industry (R L Pevzner)
  - Path of Progress of Soviet Mining Technology (A A Skochinskiy and A M Terpigorev)
  - Path of Progress of Soviet Petroleum Technology (M A Kapelyushnikov and M A Geyman)
  - Socialistic Transportation and its Achievements (V M Obrastsov)
2. While the individual talks vary considerably in format, they all give a generalized - and undoubtedly idealized - history of the various field of Soviet technology from 1917 to 1942. Foreign capital is generally blamed for the low state of Russian production before the Revolution despite the brilliance of pre-Revolutionary Russian scientists and engineers. Subsequent development is, of course, credited to the Party, Lenin and Stalin. The necessary help from foreign engineers during the first part of the period covered is excused on the basis of the low state of technological development inherited from the tsars.

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3. There is little if any indication of inadequacies. One of the few mentioned deals with the insufficient production of sintered carbide tools for cutting steel, despite the fact that a kilogram of tungsten in the form of sintered carbide will do more work than a kilogram of tungsten in the form of high speed steel. This scarcity may explain the mention here of "new Stellite alloys with small amounts of boron carbide" although in more recent publications there has been little reference to the use of Stellite for machining.
4. Quite a few statistics are given for the period 1917 to 1942 but few technical details except in broad terms. Some of the comparisons cited certainly are questionable, but that is perhaps to be expected in a work of this type. Even when comparisons with other countries are not involved, some of the "improvements" must have been due to factors other than those to which they are credited. For example, it is hard to believe that the installation of automatic controls alone decreased the melting time for an open-hearth furnace from six to seven hours to almost half this period (three to four hours).

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